Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives CNPC Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May—Vice-President U Nyan Tun received Chairman of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) Mr Liao Youngyuan and party, at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Zin Yaw and U Htin Aung.

The two sides discussed mutually beneficial investment and corporate responsibility in energy sector encompassing creation of job opportunities, expertise and technology transfer, environmental and ecological system conservation, and fulfillment of the needs of locals through a thorough analysis of the impact of projects on socio-economic life of local people.

MNA

Japan considers continued assistance important for Myanmar’s reform progress

Debt-Relief Measure for Myanmar


2. The content of the debt-relief measure (in the form of debt cancellation) is as follows:

   (1) Debts to be cancelled: Part of the yen loan claims that Myanmar owes to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

   (2) Total amount of the claims to be cancelled:

      (a) Overdue charges: (it has accumulated during the past two decades: About JPY 176.1 billion, fixed as of the end of March 2012).

      (b) Principal having fallen or falling due on or after April 1, 2012: About JPY 12.5 billion.

      (Note) Overdue charges were incurred on the portion of the principal and interest of the relevant claims that Myanmar did not repay in line with the date of repayment, based on an initial agreement concerning yen loans provided to Myanmar.

3. This debt-relief measure will be carried out on the basis of a Japan-Myanmar Summit Meeting last April etc.

4. The Government of Japan considers it important to continue to back up the progress of Myanmar’s reforms and will continue its support to Myanmar. —NLM

GMS Highways provides potential for prosperity

With globalization process, no nations can stand alone on their own and smooth transportation has thus become essential for close cooperation with regional countries apart from neighbours. Therefore, Myanmar has built three roads as parts of GMS highways in order to establish trade and communication networks not only with neighbours but with regional countries.

Among the six countries of Greater Mekong Subregion are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and China (Yunnan Province).

There are three GMS highways that pass through Myanmar. Those highways also serve as or are linked with ASEAN highways or Asian highways.

One of the GMS highways in Myanmar starts from Tachilek at Thai-Myanmar border and ends at Mengla at Myanmar-China border through Kengtung. The 257 kilometers long highway is also the part of Asian Highway Nos 2 & 3.

The highway is 24-ft-wide two-lane road with the section between Tachilek and Kengtung being upgraded and the 93-kilometer-long section from Kengtung to Mengla being tarmacked.

The highway is serving as a route for commodities transportation.

Another GMS highway is the road linking Lashio with Muse at China-Myanmar border. The 176 kilometers long road is also the part of Asian Highway No. 14. The road has been put into service, contributing to trade and tourism between Thailand, China, and Myanmar.

The third GMS highway connects two other highways, passing through Lashio, Loilem and Hsipaw. The highway is 666 kilometers in length and links between Asian highway Nos. 2 and 14 with ASEAN highway Nos. 111. Those highways pass through Kengtung, Loilem, Hsipaw, Lashio, Muse in Myanmar from Thailand to China, helping the country to boost trade with regional countries.

By Maung Maung Myint Swe

The third GMS highway connects two other highways, passing through Lashio, Loilem and Hsipaw. The highway is 666 kilometers in length and links between Asian highway Nos. 2 and 14 with ASEAN highway Nos. 111. Those highways pass through Kengtung, Loilem, Hsipaw, Lashio, Muse in Myanmar from Thailand to China, helping the country to boost trade with regional countries.

21-5-2013
Myanmar Alumni
Trs: TKK
Myanmar women’s football team qualifies for AFC Women’s Cup

YANGON, 27 May — As the match against China Taipei ended in a goalless draw, Myanmar’s women’s football team was qualified for AFC Women’s Cup 2014. The match between Myanmar and China Taipei took place in Palestine yesterday.

With three straight clean sheets in its three qualification matches, Myanmar was added to a list of the teams that qualified for AFC Women’s Cup. Myanmar beat India two-nil, routed Palestine 8-nil and managed to hold China Taipei to a draw. Myanmar gained seven points from two wins and one draw. Myanmar stood first above China Taipei in the table with goal difference.

Myanmar women’s football team will take part in AFC Women’s Cup to be held in Japan in 2014 for the fourth time.

CCA training course concludes in Pyuntaza

NYAUNGLIN, 27 May — A closing ceremony of Township level Child-Centered Approach (CCA) training course took place at the Basic Education High School in Pyuntaza of Nyaunghlin Township in Bago Region on 23 May.

It was attended by education officers, heads of primary schools, trainees and trainers.

The 12-day course was intended to introduce CCA to primary schools in the township.

Japan’s gift for Myanmar traffic police corps

YANGON, 27 May — Nissan Fair Lady donated by Japan in May will serve as the first-ever racing car for Yangon Region Traffic Police Corps, it is learnt.

The racing car will be used as a police vehicle for the arrest of racing cars that violate speed limit at Yangon’s nights and undisciplined vehicles that drive away after accidents.

Moreover, it will serve as a pilot vehicle for VIPs, says Police Col Kyaw Htwe of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police Corps. — Kyemon

Two riders dead in head-on collision between passenger bus and motorbike

Myinmu, 27 May — A fatal road accident occurred at place between mile post Nos (59/0) and (59/1) on Mohnwa-Myanmu-Mandalay road Gwaybintaw Village in Myinmu Township of Mandalay Region at about 3 pm on 24 May.

A passenger bus driven by Ngwe Oo, 21, collided head-on with a motorbike driven by Thein Htay, 27, together with U Tin Nyunt from Mohnwa at the place. U Tin Nyunt, 56, of Yezagyo Township was pronounced dead on the spot and the motorcyclist, Thein Htay, died of serious injuries soon after his arrival at Myinmu hospital.

Myinmu police station charged Ngwe Oo and Thein Htay with dangerous driving. — Kyemon

People to participate in enrolment of all school-going age children

Ministry of Education

School Enrolment Week

From (27) to (31) May

Accident

Three-year-old child missing after motor boat capsizes

YANGON, 27 May — A motorized boat, Mitta Naing, heading to Gyn-wanglay Village in Seik-kyi-khanaungto Township from Mayday boat jetty in Ahlon Township capsized and sank in the middle of the river at about 9 pm on 25 May, causing a three-year-old child missing. The boat carrying eight passengers steered by Moe Lwin was afloat in the current due to mechanical failure and capsized while it was between two CB ships. Of the passengers on board the boat, Maung Chit Yin Hao, 3, went missing while others survived.

Seikkan police station filed a lawsuit against Moe Lwin. — Kyemon

Mistaken accelerator push causes crash in Mandalay

Mandalay, 27 May — A crash involving one Hilux Surf and six motorbikes occurred on 35th street between 73rd and 74th streets in Chanaayetazan Township of Mandalay Region at about 4.10 pm yesterday.

The southbound Hilux Surf driven by Ma Ei Khine Zaw, 27, of ward-3 in Mahaungmye Township struck six stationary motorbikes and one bicycle by roadside and thence crashed into the front part of Shwe Pwint Hwar paint and hardware store as the female driver got anxious and put her foot on the accelerator mistaking it for the brake pedal while Khant Teza on board the car suddenly opened a car door.

No one was injured in the accident, but some goods in the hardware store were destroyed. — Kyemon
Tokyo, 27 May—The Defence Ministry said on Monday that the US military has not broken operational rules between Japan and the United States regarding its MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft, countering Okinawa’s claims that they have flown at a low altitude and outside of the designated hours.

The ministry concluded that “there were no clear violations” of the bilateral agreement as it analyzed documents submitted by the local government in Okinawa, together with some 3,000 photos that the ministry’s local bureau took near the Futenma Air Station in the city of Ginowan.

The Okinawa prefectural government has argued that the number of violations such as flying outside of the designated hours and at a low altitude over a highly populated residential area has amounted to 318.

Twelve Ospreys have been deployed at the air station since last October despite local opposition and safety concerns. The ministry said it plans to notify the Okinawa prefectural government of the results, and urge the US military to continue abiding by the rules.

Obama visits tornado-ravaged US state of Oklahoma, vows to support recovery

HOUSTON, 27 May— US President Barack Obama on Sunday called on Americans to help rebuild the tornado-ravaged Oklahoma City area during a visit to places worst hit by the deadly twister on Monday afternoon.

The president caught a glimpse of the damage from the air before Air Force One landed in Oklahoma on Sunday. He began touring some of the hardest-hit areas and meeting with officials and residents in the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore on Sunday afternoon, according to local media reports.

The tornado, classified as an EF-5 or the strongest storm on Earth with 200 mph-plus winds, killed 18 people and injured 377 others. As many as 12,000 homes were damaged. Official statistics estimated the damage caused by the tornado at 2 billion US dollars.

Speaking in front of the wreckage of the Plaza Towers Elementary School, where seven children died in the tornado, Obama urged Americans to help the storm relief and reconstruction efforts.

“It’s going to take a long time for this community to rebuild, so I want to urge every American to step up,” said the president, asking the public to donate via the American Red Cross website.

“The area has known more than its share of heartbreak, but the people pride themselves on the Oklahoma standard,” Obama said. “ Oklahomans have inspired us with their love and their courage and their resilience.”

And he vowed that the nation would help. “This is a strong community with a strong character,” he said. “There’s no doubt they’re gonna bounce back. But, they need help, as anyone would need help.”

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin said on Sunday that the state needs quick action from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help Moore, a town of some 41,000 people.

Obama has offered prayers for the people of Oklahoma from the White House in recent days. He also said: “While the road ahead will be long, our country will be with them every single step of the way.”

The White House said that FEMA has already provided 57 million US dollars in rebates and incentives to help build about 12,000 storm shelters in Oklahoma, according to earlier reports.—Xinhua

A group of reporters get on a US military’s MV22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft at the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, for a ride on 20 March, 2013.—Kyodo News

Tokyo and Washington agreed in September that the US military should avoid low-altitude flights above nuclear power facilities and congested areas, and limit night flights after 10 pm.

Kyodo News

EU faces Syria sanctions crunch over push to arm rebels

BRUSSELS, 27 May— The European Union may end this week either helping Syrian rebels or the Damascus government they detest, depending on how EU ministers resolve differences over a package of sanctions on Syria that is about to lapse.

At a meeting in Brussels on Monday, the main EU military powers, Britain and France, will argue forcefully for easing some of that embargo to help channel weapons to rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad. But Austria, Sweden and several others will defend maintaining the sanctions across the board.

Failure to find a compromise could mean the entire package simply vanishes when it expires on Saturday— June—London has already raised the stakes by threatening to veto a full renewal.

But it is unlikely the EU will offer such a shot in the arm to Assad by giving up on measures intended to cripple his government’s ability to trade and raise money and also to curb the movements and personal wealth of his family and confidants.

EU officials see compromise — possibly by delaying an easing of the arms embargo until after peace talks or by limiting the types of weapon allowed and which rebel groups may receive them.

“I think everyone is manoeuvring here,” said Shashank Joshi at London think-tank the Royal United Services Institute.

“The Brits are very keen to show they will take this quite far. Will they actually pull the trigger? Will they get rid of the entire apparatus of sanctions and asset freezes that this entails? I am not so sure.” The debate over the arms embargo has gained urgency because of recent military gains by Assad’s troops against rebels whose political goal in ending the Assad dynasty’s authoritarian rule the 27-nation European Union has endorsed diplomatically.

Opponents say taking a decision now to allow arms to be sent to the rebels could undermine next month’s planned international peace conference, sponsored by the United States and Russia, and they are using this as an argument to extend the full embargo.

“Failure to find a compromise could mean the entire package simply vanishes when it expires on Saturday— June—London has already raised the stakes by threatening to veto a full renewal.”

At a meeting in Brussels on Monday, the main EU military powers, Britain and France, will argue forcefully for easing some of that embargo to help channel weapons to rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad. But Austria, Sweden and several others will defend maintaining the sanctions across the board.

Failure to find a compromise could mean the entire package simply vanishes when it expires on Saturday— June—London has already raised the stakes by threatening to veto a full renewal.

But it is unlikely the EU will offer such a shot in the arm to Assad by giving up on measures intended to cripple his government’s ability to trade and raise money and also to curb the movements and personal wealth of his family and confidants.

EU officials see compromise — possibly by delaying an easing of the arms embargo until after peace talks or by limiting the types of weapon allowed and which rebel groups may receive them.

“I think everyone is manoeuvring here,” said Shashank Joshi at London think-tank the Royal United Services Institute.

“The Brits are very keen to show they will take this quite far. Will they actually pull the trigger? Will they get rid of the entire apparatus of sanctions and asset freezes that this entails? I am not so sure.” The debate over the arms embargo has gained urgency because of recent military gains by Assad’s troops against rebels whose political goal in ending the Assad dynasty’s authoritarian rule the 27-nation European Union has endorsed diplomatically.

Opponents say taking a decision now to allow arms to be sent to the rebels could undermine next month’s planned international peace conference, sponsored by the United States and Russia, and they are using this as an argument to extend the full embargo.

Emperor Akihito (L) and Empress Michiko (facing, 2nd from L) talk to children during a tree-planting ceremony at the Tottori Hanakaze Flower Park in the town of Namba, Tottori Prefecture, on 26 May, 2013. Kyodo News

The secretary-general is deeply concerned by the increasing levels of violence in the region. In the past week, two rockets hit the Hezbollah-controlled southern part of Lebanon capital city on Sunday, wounding five people. The attack came a day after Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah openly defended his group’s backing to the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

As preparations are ongoing for the international conference on Syria, Ban called on all countries, organizations and groups immediately to cease supporting the violence inside Syria and instead use their influence to “promote a political solution to Syria’s tragedy,” said the statement.

“The secretary-general has consistently opposed the transfer of arms and fighters from outside Syria to either side inside Syria,” the statement said. “He has repeatedly urged respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region.”

In the statement, the UN chief reiterated the “paramount importance” of preventing a dangerous spillover of the conflict across borders and called for strict adherence to the Baabda Declaration, which was approved during a national dialogue session almost a year ago and called for keeping Lebanon neutral from regional tensions and crisis.

UN chief concerned about regional spillover of Syria unrest

UNITED NATIONS, 27 May— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday expressed extreme concern over the increasing risk of the spillover of the Syrian unrest to Lebanon, urging respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region.

“The secretary-general is deeply concerned by the acknowledged increased participation in the fighting in Syria by Hezbollah, as well as by the risk of spillover in Lebanon, which has witnessed growing tension over the past week,” said a statement released by Ban’s spokesperson.

“Act responsibly and work towards lowering rhetoric and calming tensions in the region.”

Two rockets hit the Hezbollah-controlled southern part of Lebanon capital city on Sunday, wounding five people. The attack came a day after Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah overtly defended his group’s backing to the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

As preparations are ongoing for the international conference on Syria, Ban called on all countries, organizations and groups immediately to cease supporting the violence inside Syria and instead use their influence to “promote a political solution to Syria’s tragedy,” said the statement.

“The secretary-general has consistently opposed the transfer of arms and fighters from outside Syria to either side inside Syria,” the statement said. “He has repeatedly urged respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region.”

In the statement, the UN chief reiterated the “paramount importance” of preventing a dangerous spillover of the conflict across borders and called for strict adherence to the Baabda Declaration, which was approved during a national dialogue session almost a year ago and called for keeping Lebanon neutral from regional tensions and crisis.

Xinhua

Afghan policemen display seized Taliban weapons and ammunition at a media centre in Kunar Province, eastern Afghanistan, on 26 May, 2013. Afghan policemen captured a cache of Taliban ammunition during an operation in Kunar Province on Sunday, police officials said.—Xinhua

No violations of bilateral agreement on Osprey operations

Tokyo, 27 May—The Defence Ministry said on Monday that the US military has not broken operational rules between Japan and the United States regarding its MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft, countering Okinawa’s claims that they have flown at a low altitude and outside of the designated hours.

The ministry concluded that “there were no clear violations” of the bilateral agreement as it analyzed documents submitted by the local government in Okinawa, together with some 3,000 photos that the ministry’s local bureau took near the Futenma Air Station in the city of Ginowan.

The Okinawa prefectural government has argued that the number of violations such as flying outside of the designated hours and at a low altitude over a highly populated residential area has amounted to 318.

Twelve Ospreys have been deployed at the air station since last October despite local opposition and safety concerns. The ministry said it plans to notify the Okinawa prefectural government of the results, and urge the US military to continue abiding by the rules.

Tokyo and Washington agreed in September that the US military should avoid low-altitude flights above nuclear power facilities and congested areas, and limit night flights after 10 pm.

Kyodo News

Japan stocks in “adjustment phase”

Tokyo, 27 May—Japanese stocks have apparently entered an “adjustment phase,” the top government spokesman said on Monday, citing their recent sharp falls that followed advances stemming from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic policies.

“It seems (the market) is in an adjustment phase,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference. But Suga also emphasized that the Japanese economy “has been recovering steadily.”

The country’s benchmark Nikkei stock index has been swinging wildly since it tumbled more than 7 percent on Thursday. It had risen over 80 percent since mid-November, when the lower house of parliament was dissolved for December’s general election, in which Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party took power, pledging to end chronic deflation with bolder monetary and fiscal policies.—Kyodo News
Chinese biologists find new method to improve cell reprogramming efficiency

LONDON, 27 May — Sequenced introduction of the proteins known to reprogramme cells could improve the efficiency of cell reprogramming, according to a new study reported in Nature Cell Biology on Sunday. Currently, researchers use simultaneous introduction of several proteins for reprogramming, which introduces the proteins to reprogramme cells back to a pluripotent, embryonic-like state.

Chinese stem-cell biologist Pei Duanqing and colleagues from Chinese Academy of Sciences reported that the sequential introduction of reprogramming proteins outperforms simultaneous introduction. According to the report, sequential introduction leads to a greater number of cells being reprogrammed than traditional method, and the increase in efficiency was observed both for mouse and human differentiated cells.

The successive expression of reprogramming factors promotes the cells to adopt mesenchymal characteristics before going through an epithelial state and finally reaching pluripotency. This discovery provided a technique for further optimizing the reprogramming of somatic cells to induced pluripotent stem cells, researchers said.

"Improving the efficiency of reprogramming somatic cells to induced pluripotent stem cells is highly beneficial to researchers," Professor Pei told Xinhua. "The researchers could use reprogrammed cells to analyze how defects characteristic of a variety of diseases appear in cells in the laboratory or to test the potential of drugs to cure these defects," said Pei.

Robotics and Intelligent Systems at the University of Sydney, Australian Centre for Field Robotics, stands next to one of his robotic aircraft in his laboratory in Sydney on 24 April, 2013.

\[\text{Reuters}\]

Europe investigates Apple’s iPhone tactics

NEW YORK, 27 May — The European Commission is investigating whether Apple Inc is using anti-competitive iPhone sales tactics and technical restrictions to squeeze out rival smartphone makers from the European market, according to documents seen by the Financial Times.

According to a questionnaire sent last week to several European mobile network operators, the Commission is focusing on distribution terms that might favour Apple by ensuring no rival can secure a better sales deal, said the newspaper. Apple said its contracts comply with EU laws, said the FT.

The inquiry is the result of private complaints from mobile operators and is at a preliminary stage. Before a formal probe can be launched, the Commission would need to be confident that Apple was dominant in the EU smartphone market, which may be hard to show given the popularity of Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy handsets.

Umbrellas are seen in front of the Apple store on 5th Avenue in New York on 19 May, 2013.

\[\text{Reuters}\]

Kids’ genes, environment affect sleep differently

NEW YORK, 27 May — A new study based on pairs of Canadian twins suggests that genetics play a strong role in how long kids sleep at night, but their environment may be more important for afternoon naps. Researchers compared sleep patterns for close to 500 sets of identical or fraternal twins. They found that especially as kids grow older, environmental influences—which include when parents put kids in bed, for example—explained more and more of their napping differences.

“Even though the results do not explicitly state which are the environmental factors,” said Sonia Brescianini, “researchers in the field think that familial habits at bed time, sleep routines, and in general sleep hygiene measures are for sure a means of improving sleep in children.”

In the new study, published in the journal Pediatric Research, Brescianini and colleagues with the Italian Twin Registry at Rome’s Istituto Superiore di Sanità who was not involved in the new study, told Reuters Health in an email that past research has also suggested a child’s environment may be more important than genetics for daytime sleep habits.

The new study involved 983 individual children born in greater Montreal, Canada, from 1995 to 1998. Mothers were asked about each twin’s daytime and nighttime sleep patterns at age 6, 18, 30 and 48 months. By comparing identical and fraternal twins, Dr. Jacques Montplaisir from the University of Montreal and his colleagues were able to determine how much of kids’ sleep variation was due to genes -- which are the same in identical twins -- and how much to environmental factors. For example, Brescianini explained, the more identical twins are similar and fraternal twins are not for a given trait such as sleep schedules, the more that trait is likely to be genetic.

Shawna Ellis (L) cradles her two-month-old son Aiden as she and Tianna Rogers (R), 10, wait in line for a computer to go on sale at WalMart on the Thanksgiving Day holiday in Salem, New Hampshire on 22 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Shawna Ellis (L) cradles her two-month-old son Aiden as she and Tianna Rogers (R), 10, wait in line for a computer to go on sale at WalMart on the Thanksgiving Day holiday in Salem, New Hampshire on 22 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

France’s Arianespace announces to launch Soyuz in June

PARIS, 27 May — The Soyuz launcher for Arianespace’s milestone medium-lift mission is rapidly taking shape in French Guiana, said the aerospace group in a statement on Friday.

“This vehicle under-lines that Arianespace is at a preliminary stage to the Space Agency’s mission, preparing it for the Soyuz flight with the first four satellites in O3b Networks connectivity constellation,” Arianespace declared. Arianespace added that the vehicle has completed the core second stage with the mating of its upper and lower sections and will be followed by mating of the launcher’s centerline at the third stage.

“Once completed, the Soyuz will be Arianespace’s fifth with the medium-lift vehicle from the Spaceport since its introduction at French Guiana in October 2011.”

Representatives attend the 15th Annual Meeting of China Association for Science and Technology in Guiyang, capital of southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 25 May, 2013.—XINHUA

Jaques Montplaisir from the University of Montreal and his colleagues were able to determine how much of kids’ sleep variation was due to genes -- which are the same in identical twins -- and how much to environmental factors.

For example, Brescianini explained, the more identical twins are similar and fraternal twins are not for a given trait such as sleep schedules, the more that trait is likely to be genetic.
China, EU to hold talks on trade disputes

BEIJING, 27 May—The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Sunday that it will start negotiating with its EU counterpart in Brussels next week regarding recent trade frictions. Vice Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan and Jean Luc Demarty, the European Commission’s director-general for trade, will co-chair talks on China-EU trade and investment on 27 May, according to a statement from the MOC.

Zhong will also discuss issues related to solar panels and wireless telecoms equipment with EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht. The EU recently launched several trade remedy probes targeting Chinese goods. The EU backed a proposal in early May to impose punitive import duties on solar panels from China in order to prevent the dumping of Chinese panel products in the European market.

Last week, it proposed opening an anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigation into mobile telecommunications equipment imported from China, a move that is believed to be aimed at Huawei and ZTE, China’s two biggest telecoms system and equipment producers. The EU’s proposed levying of punitive duties on Chinese solar panels would severely impair bilateral trade ties, Ministry of Commerce spokesman Shen Danyang warned on 16 May, adding that “China’s preference to use dialogue and negotiations to resolve the frictions has not changed.”—Xinhua

EU to close excessive deficit procedure vs Italy on Wednesday

MILAN, 27 May—The European Commission will close on Wednesday a procedure against Italy started in 2009 when Rome breached the European Union’s deficit ceiling of 3 percent of gross domestic product, several Italian newspapers said quoting Commission documents. The decision is much awaited in Italy, which has introduced strict fiscal discipline under the government of former prime minister Mario Monti even as it was fighting a deep recession.

The closing of the procedure will put an end to strict EU monitoring of Italian public spending and allow the freezing up resources for up to 12 billion euros ($15.52 billion), Regional Affairs Minister Graziano Delrio told La Stampa on Monday. “The closing of the procedure alone allows us to boost spending by between 7 and 10 billion euros, 12 billion euros in the most optimistic forecast,” said Delrio, who said the money could be used to reduce youth employment and a property tax.

Pier Carlo Padoan, chief economist at the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation, said in an interview with La Repubblica he expected a further, significant fall in government bond yields once the EU closes the procedure. He said the Commission’s decision would give Italy more money in the form of an additional tranche of structural funds. According to the draft proposal that will be put to EU Commissioners on Wednesday, the Commission will also make several economic policy recommendations to Italy. It will ask Italy to cooperate with “fiscal consolidation at a pace that is appropriate but compatible with growth” and to keep a primary surplus.

Check young kids for motor delays

NEW YORK, 27 May—Doctors should regularly screen babies and young children for delays in motor skill development —including trouble sitting, standing and speaking — at well-child visits, pediatrics said today. In a clinical report, an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) panel said diagnosing and treating these problems may ultimately improve kids’ outlook and help families gain additional support. Identifying children with delays and motor abnormalities, theoretically or hopefully would set them on a better trajectory,” said Meghann Lloyd, who studies motor development at the University of Oregon Institute in Technology in Oshawa, Canada, Lloyd, who was not involved in the new report, called it “a really big step forward for the field.”

The panel said. On a general exam, it recommended that doctors measure head size and look at children’s muscle tone, reflexes and eye movements.

A pediatrician examines a girl inside a social medical centre in the Helsinki suburb of Athens on 24 May, 2012.

Freeport to restart Indonesia open-pit mining soon

JAKARTA, 27 May—Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc’s (FCX.N) Indonesian unit will restart open-pit mining operations at its Papua copper mine soon, Deputy Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Susilo Siswo Utomo said on Monday, after a tunnel collapse that killed 28 people.

Arizona-based Freeport suspended operations at the world’s No 2 copper mine on 15 May, a day after the training tunnel, away from its main operations, fell in on 38 workers. The Grasberg mine normally produces around 220,000 tonnes of concentrate a day, with around 140,000 tonnes coming from open pit mining and 80,000 tonnes from underground operations.

On Saturday, a union official said between 35 and 40 percent of workers at Freeport Indonesia had returned to work to carry out maintenance work.

Texas Legislature passes measure to prevent Medicaid expansion

AUSTIN, (Texas), 27 May—The Republican-majority Texas House and Senate on Sunday sent Governor Rick Perry a proposal to prevent the state from expanding its Medicaid programme as outlined by President Barack Obama’s healthcare reform law. Perry, a Republican, notified the Obama administration last summer his state would not expand Medicaid, which provides healthcare for low-income people. He repeated his opposition in an April news conference at which he called expansion “foolish.”

The proposal, an amendment to a Medicaid-related bill, says state health officials “may only provide medical assistance to a person who would have been otherwise eligible for medical assistance or for whom federal matching funds were available under the eligibility criteria for medical assistance in effect on 31 Dec, 2013.” The House had tackled on the amendment after the Senate had passed a version of the bill without the amendment. Members of both chambers met to work out differences in the legislation.

That House-Senate conference committee chose to keep the amendment, although its members tweaked the language to prevent unintended consequences, said the bill’s author, Republican Senator Jane Nelson.

“This prevents the expansion of Medicaid,” she said in a statement. Republican Representative Jeff Leach, the author of the amendment, has said Medicaid expansion is too big of a decision to be made without lawmakers’ input.

Last June, the US Supreme Court upheld Obama’s healthcare overhaul but allowed states to opt out of a provision expanding the Medicaid programme. Since then, 26 governors have indicated support for Medicaid expansion, according to the Advisory Board Company, a consulting firm that is tracking the issue. Democrats have called on Perry to drop his opposition to expanding Medicaid in the state, which has the nation’s highest percentage of uninsured people. About 25 percent of Texans are uninsured.

The biennial legislative session is set to end on Monday.

Workers from Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc gather during a protest over an accident where 39 workers attending an underground training were trapped when a tunnel collapsed, at Mile 72, near the mining area in Tembagapura of Papua Province on 15 May, 2013.—Reuters

Italy’s Prime Minister Enrico Letta addresses a news conference after meeting European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (unseen) at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels on 2 May, 2013.

Reuters

Texas Legislature passes measure to prevent Medicaid expansion

AUSTIN, (Texas), 27 May—The Republican-majority Texas House and Senate on Sunday sent Governor Rick Perry a proposal to prevent the state from expanding its Medicaid programme as outlined by President Barack Obama’s healthcare reform law. Perry, a Republican, notified the Obama administration last summer his state would not expand Medicaid, which provides healthcare for low-income people. He repeated his opposition in an April news conference at which he called expansion “foolish.”

The proposal, an amendment to a Medicaid-related bill, says state health officials “may only provide medical assistance to a person who would have been otherwise eligible for medical assistance or for whom federal matching funds were available under the eligibility criteria for medical assistance in effect on 31 Dec, 2013.”

The House had tackled on the amendment after the Senate had passed a version of the bill without the amendment. Members of both chambers met to work out differences in the legislation.

That House-Senate conference committee chose to keep the amendment, although its members tweaked the language to prevent unintended consequences, said the bill’s author, Republican Senator Jane Nelson.

“This prevents the expansion of Medicaid,” she said in a statement. Republican Representative Jeff Leach, the author of the amendment, has said Medicaid expansion is too big of a decision to be made without lawmakers’ input.

Last June, the US Supreme Court upheld Obama’s healthcare overhaul but allowed states to opt out of a provision expanding the Medicaid programme. Since then, 26 governors have indicated support for Medicaid expansion, according to the Advisory Board Company, a consulting firm that is tracking the issue. Democrats have called on Perry to drop his opposition to expanding Medicaid in the state, which has the nation’s highest percentage of uninsured people. About 25 percent of Texans are uninsured.

The biennial legislative session is set to end on Monday.

Reuters
AU, UNAMID sign funding agreement for Darfur

ADIDAS AMABABA, 27 May —The African Union (AU) and the Joint UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) have signed an agreement for a variety of humanitarian, development and peace-building projects in Darfur.

AU said in a statement on Sunday that the funds of 2.98 million US dollars were originally part of a 10-million-dollar donation from Japan for this purpose.

The funds shall be administered by the Trust Fund for the Support of Lasting Peace in Darfur, said the statement.

El-Ghassim Wane, AU director of peace and security, and Mohamed Ibn Chambas, AU joint special representative for Darfur, signed the deal at the AU headquarters on the sidelines of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the OAU/U.A.

Since the initial deployment on 31 Dec, 2007, UNAMID is tasked with protecting civilians, contributing to security for humanitarian assistance and assisting an inclusive political process, among others.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaks during a ceremony at Radboud University in Nijmegen on 23 May, 2013.—REUTERS

AU, UNAMID sign funding agreement for Darfur

Photo shows the inside of a nuclear physics laboratory of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, on 25 May, 2013, where radioactive substances were released into the atmosphere outside the controlled area two days earlier. The JAEA said 25 May six people were confirmed to have been exposed to radiation and a quick checkup suggested possible exposure of 24 others.

Schauble says Merkel not scaring off conservative voters

BERLIN, 27 May—Chancellor Angela Mer- kel has not alienated conserva- tive German voters by pushing her Christian Democrats into the centre but has instead put the party on course to win for a third straight term in September, Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble said.

In an interview with Der Spiegel magazine on Sunday, the powerful lead- er of the CDU’s conserva- tive wing made it clear to fellow right wingers they should stop sniping at Mer- kel if they want to help keep the party in power for four more years.

Schaeuble also ruled out for the first time a “grand coalition” with the centre-left Social Demo- crats (SPD), a right-centre alliance that many analysts expect to be the outcome in September. He also ruled out a coalition with the Greens.

Merkel, seeking a third term, has been under fire from the right wing of her CDU for pushing the party away from its conservative roots. Since 2009 the CDU has abandoned conscrip- tion, nuclear power and university fees. It is also now opening itself to quotas for women executives and gay rights.

“We’re not scaring away anyone,” Schaeuble told Der Spiegel in a stir- ring defence of Merkel four months before the election. “On the contrary, the CDU is in a better position now than ever before and I’m not just talking about opinion polls.

“Merkel’s doing a re- markable job,” he added, pointing to the political weakness and infighting plaguing conservative par- ties in France and Britain. “Everyone will tell you that society has changed a lot in the last 20 years. We’ve got to accept that.”—Reuters

30 people exposed to leaked radiation in nuclear lab accident

TOKYO, 27 May—Physi- cal exams of people working at the site of a nuclear labora- tory accident confirmed an additional 24 people were exposed to leaked radioac- tive substances, raising the total number of exposed staff to 30, the state-run Japan Atomic Energy Agency said on Sunday.

Of 55 people engaged in the troubled experiment at the JAEA’s nuclear phys- ics laboratories in Ibaraki Prefecture, 19 did not suf- fer any exposure, and six others have yet to be exam- ined, the agency said.

The highest radiation dose was 1.7 millisieverts, compared with the annual exposure limit for nuclear facility workers in Japan of 50 millisieverts.

The accident occurred at midday on Thursday, but the JAEA did not report it to the nuclear regulatory au- thorities until Friday night.

The agency said on Saturday it initially believed the leak was not seri- ous and confined to the lab- oratory when an alarm went off. Workers then switched on the ventilation fan, caus- ing radioactive substances to escape into the outside atmosphere.

The researchers at the lab were engaged in an ex- periment to generate parti- cles by applying a proton beam to gold.

Officials from the High Energy Accelerator Re- search Organization, which was conducting the experi- ment, said they suspect a malfunction of one of the electromagnets which control protons. As a result, an excessively strong pro- ton beam hit the gold and released radioactive sub- stances.—Kyodo News

Schauble says Merkel not scaring off conservative voters

Tokyo, 27 May—Physi- cal exams of people working at the site of a nuclear labora- tory accident confirmed an additional 24 people were exposed to leaked radioac- tive substances, raising the total number of exposed staff to 30, the state-run Japan Atomic Energy Agency said on Sunday.

Of 55 people engaged in the troubled experiment at the JAEA’s nuclear phys- ics laboratories in Ibaraki Prefecture, 19 did not suf- fer any exposure, and six others have yet to be exam- ined, the agency said.

The highest radiation dose was 1.7 millisieverts, compared with the annual exposure limit for nuclear facility workers in Japan of 50 millisieverts.

The accident occurred at midday on Thursday, but the JAEA did not report it to the nuclear regulatory au- thorities until Friday night.

The agency said on Saturday it initially believed the leak was not seri- ous and confined to the lab- oratory when an alarm went off. Workers then switched on the ventilation fan, caus- ing radioactive substances to escape into the outside atmosphere.

The researchers at the lab were engaged in an ex- periment to generate parti- cles by applying a proton beam to gold.

Officials from the High Energy Accelerator Re- search Organization, which was conducting the experi- ment, said they suspect a malfunction of one of the electromagnets which control protons. As a result, an excessively strong pro- ton beam hit the gold and released radioactive sub- stances.—Kyodo News

Schauble says Merkel not scaring off conservative voters

Tokyo, 27 May—Physi- cal exams of people working at the site of a nuclear labora- tory accident confirmed an additional 24 people were exposed to leaked radioac- tive substances, raising the total number of exposed staff to 30, the state-run Japan Atomic Energy Agency said on Sunday.

Of 55 people engaged in the troubled experiment at the JAEA’s nuclear phys- ics laboratories in Ibaraki Prefecture, 19 did not suf- fer any exposure, and six others have yet to be exam- ined, the agency said.

The highest radiation dose was 1.7 millisieverts, compared with the annual exposure limit for nuclear facility workers in Japan of 50 millisieverts.

The accident occurred at midday on Thursday, but the JAEA did not report it to the nuclear regulatory au- thorities until Friday night.

The agency said on Saturday it initially believed the leak was not seri- ous and confined to the lab- oratory when an alarm went off. Workers then switched on the ventilation fan, caus- ing radioactive substances to escape into the outside atmosphere.

The researchers at the lab were engaged in an ex- periment to generate parti- cles by applying a proton beam to gold.

Officials from the High Energy Accelerator Re- search Organization, which was conducting the experi- ment, said they suspect a malfunction of one of the electromagnets which control protons. As a result, an excessively strong pro- ton beam hit the gold and released radioactive sub- stances.—Kyodo News

Czech PM’s plane lands safely in Moscow despite unexpected window cracks

MOSCOW, 27 May—A plane carrying Czech Prime Minister Petr Necas landed safely in Moscow on Sun- day with a cracked cockpit window.

The Airbus A319, heading for Moscow from Prague with Nocas aboard, was crossing the Belorus- sian airspace as a window in the cockpit suddenly cracked, according to local media reports.

The pilots decided to descend the plane to a low- er altitude and even consid- ered an emergency landing upon detecting the cracks, the RIA Novosti news agen- cy reported.

The crew later decided to continue to fly to Mos- cow. The plan landed safely in the Russian capital at night with no one onboard injured.

Necas is starting his official visit to Russia on Monday, and will hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Economic cooperation, joint energy projects and humanitarian exchanges will be top on the agenda, the Kremlin said earlier.

In 1990, Singapore was 29th in the world with an average life expectancy of 75. Chia Shi Lu, a mem- ber of the government par- liamentary committee for health, said a “key factor” in Singapore’s longevity “is the excellent child and maternal health services and childhood disease pre- vention programmes.”

The republic has one of the lowest infant mortal- ity rates of 2. 59 deaths per 1,000 live births and mater- nal death rates in the world.
RELIgIOUS AFFAIRS

Three religious edifices of ancient Mandalay Palace to be restored

Mandalay, 27 May—A stake driving ceremony was held at Mangala Kyauktawgyi Pagoda on 24 May to rebuild three parts of ancient Mandalay palace damaged in World War II. A host of renowned monks including Chancellor of Sitasu International Buddhist Academy Ven Monk Dr. Nantissara attended the ritual. The congregation led by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife, region level organizations members and donors sought sermons from the monks and donated provisions to them. The Region Chief Minister and wife, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung and wife and officials laid foundation of the religious edifices. These three buildings out of seven original sites of Mandalay Palace were bombed in World War II. Minn Myay Yarzar Company contributed to the renovation of the old buildings.

Mandalay, 27 May—Paleku-Yankin road in Yebyu Township in Dawei District is a part of road between Yebyu and Dawei Deep Sea Port. Township Development Affairs Committee has upgraded the road from earthen one to the gravel road and bridges which could formerly withstand no more than one bullock cart and a one motorbike. Plus, it was not an all-weather one because it used to be inundated by Paleku creek in monsoon. Villages of Yankin and Pyinbyu villages had to tackle many health and social issues as they lost road link in the rainy season and had to depend on waterway as the only mean of transportation. The construction of 36-ft RC bridge with wooden floor over Paletu creek started in August, 2012 has been completed. The upgrading of road to the gravel one with the length of four furlongs, the width of 12 ft and the depth of 12 ft cost K 29.1 million. It has been completed on 14 May. The villages are now connected with other parts of Tanintharyi Region, with Dawei Deep Sea Port and Yangon in all weathers. It can now withstand any vehicles, big or small.

Donation

Elite donates car to Myanmar Golf Federation

Myanma Alinn

Department Immigration and National Registration Department in Kyaiktyok Township in Yangoon made field trips to wards and villages in the townships to issue Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to eligible citizens in Moe Pwint-5 campaign.

CSCs issued in Kyauktan

Kyauktan, 27 May—Immigration and National Registration Department in Kyauktan Township in Yangoon made field trips to wards and villages in the townships to issue Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to eligible citizens in Moe Pwint-5 campaign.

Paleku-Yankin road in Yebyu Tsp upgraded

Yebyu, 27 May—Paleku-Yankin road in Yebyu Township in Dawei District is a part of road between Yebyu and Dawei Deep Sea Port. Township Development Affairs Committee has upgraded the road from earthen one to the gravel road and bridges which could formerly withstand no more than one bullock cart and a one motorbike. Plus, it was not an all-weather one because it used to be inundated by Paleku creek in monsoon. Villages of Yankin and Pyinbyu villages had to tackle many health and social issues as they lost road link in the rainy season and had to depend on waterway as the only mean of transportation. The construction of 36-ft RC bridge with wooden floor over Paletu creek started in August, 2012 has been completed. The upgrading of road to the gravel one with the length of four furlongs, the width of 12 ft and the depth of 12 ft cost K 29.1 million. It has been completed on 14 May. The villages are now connected with other parts of Tanintharyi Region, with Dawei Deep Sea Port and Yangon in all weathers. It can now withstand any vehicles, big or small.

One killed in electric short circuit

Indaw, 27 May—A skateboarder was killed in electric short circuit as he had accidentally touched the electrified fence of the skate ground in Indaw Township in Katha District in Sagay Region on 22 May. Kyaw Win Tun, 21, of Kanpauk village in Huyang Township was admitted to Indaw People’s Hospital at 8.45 pm on 22 May. The police station has opened a case as regards his death.

Second Yangon ICT Show organized

Yangon, 27 May—Second Yangon ICT Exhibition 2013, jointly organized Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association, kicked off on 24 May. The exhibition in Tatmadaw Convention Hall showcased computer sets, accessories, com-munications gadgets, mobile handsets and accessories and software solutions, enabling crowd with special interests in latest tech. The chairman of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association said that the country would develop when IT could be employed effectively in education and commerce as lifestyle, education, business, communications and entertainment are being driven by ICT in the technology age. The opening ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thaug Tin and official visitors on booths on display at second Yangon ICT Exhibition.

Shwe Myeik Maung library to be established in Myeik

Myeik, 27 May—Descendants and fans of versatile writer Shwe Myeik Maung (a) U Tun Kyaw will establish a library after his name with his statue in front it to mark 45th anniversary of the death of the Myeik-born writer, journalist, poet and photographer. He was a member of Doh Bama Asiasoy and served as a Myeik Township Administrator in Japan era. He was a member of the team compiling Myanmar Encyclopedia and the author of Myeik history. Shwe Myeik Maung Fans (Yangon) invited donations of his works, books, photos, poems from fans’ collections to put on display in the library in Myeik. It may be reached at 09420076057.

Farming rights certificates presented in Mongshu

Mongshu, 27 May—Farming rights certificates were issued to farmers in six wards and village-tracts in Mongshu Township in Loulem District in southern Shan State. The ceremony to grant farming rights at Township General Administration Department Office on 23 May was attended by farmers from the wards and village-tracts and farmland management committee members.

Dawei starts school enrollment

Dawei, 27 May—Schools in Dawei in Taninthayi Region has started to accept enrollment for 2013-2014 academic year since 23 May. Five Basic Education High Schools, seven Basic Education Middle Schools and 106 Basic Education Primary Schools in the previous year accepted 24988 students. Primary schoolchildren will receive readers and note books free of charge plus stipends.

U Tun Lin, Chairman of Township Farmland Management Committee Township Administrator, delivered an address at the ceremony. Secretary of Township Farmland Management Committee Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Tin Kyaw presented 701 certificates for six wards and village-tracts.

Myanma Alinn

Second Yangon ICT Show organized

Yangon, 27 May—Second Yangon ICT Exhibition 2013, jointly organized Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association, kicked off on 24 May. The exhibition in Tatmadaw Convention Hall showcased computer sets, accessories, com-munications gadgets, mobile handsets and accessories and software solutions, enabling crowd with special interests in latest tech. The chairman of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association said that the country would develop when IT could be employed effectively in education and commerce as lifestyle, education, business, communications and entertainment are being driven by ICT in the technology age. The opening ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Com-munications and Information Technology U Thaug Tin and region ministers. They formally opened the show and viewed round the booth. Some 160 booths were displayed by 57 companies at the second Yangon ICT exhibition that run through yesterday.

Myanma Alinn
Better economic operations and services

Generally, corporatization is the re-constitution or restructuring of a government agency or department into a corporate legal entity usually a company with its liabilities limited by share capital. The government may retain full ownership of the company, or it may privatize it by selling part or all of its shares to private local or foreign investors.

It is the act of reorganizing the structure of government-owned entity into a legal entity with the corporate structure found in publicly traded companies. These companies tend to have a board of directors (BOD), management and shares. However, unlike publicly traded companies, the government is typically the company’s only shareholder and that the shares in the company are not traded publicly.

In preparation for corporatization, the government will have to identify which services or businesses of the government unit are to be corporatized. To reap full benefits from corporatization, besides legal and economic separation from the government, corporatization requires wide-ranging restructuring and reorganization to build capabilities within the corporatized entity to enable it to function autonomously in a competitive business environment. Such restructuring and reorganization include introduction of corporate structures including the establishment of a management team that is accountable to the board of directors.

The main goal of corporatization is allowing the government to retain ownership of the company but still enable it to run as efficiently as its private counterparts because government departments sometimes are inefficient with the level of bureaucracy involved.

Although corporatization is to be distinguished from privatization (the former involves publicly owned corporations, the latter privately owned ones), once a service has corporatized it is relatively easy to privatize or part-privatize it, for example by selling some or all of the company’s shares via the stock market.

Myanmar’s reforms would involve such corporatization measures for better economic operations and services facilitation.

Japan, Myanmar agree grant aid to Myanmar

Exchange of Notes concerning Grant Aid to Myanmar

1. On May 26, Mr. Mikko Numata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Dr. Khin San Yee, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged notes regarding grant aid for the following two projects in Nay Pyi Taw.

2. The Project for Urgent Improvement of Water Supply in Yangon City (maximum 1.9 billion yen)

   (1) The water supply system in Yangon City has various problems such as water stoppage, low feed water pressure, and 50% water leakage due to the aging of the system and inappropriate management caused by budgetary deficit. At the same time, well-planned measures to respond to rapidly increasing demand for water supply has become an urgent task.

   (2) Nyaungnapin Water Treatment Plant (Phase 1) Pumping Station, which supplies approximately 40% of the water supply of Yangon City (524,000m³/day), has a total of four pumps. However, due to breakdown, only two of them are currently working and they also may be broken down by groundwater spouts or other reasons at any time. Moreover, the main pipes for water supply in the city are also aging and water stoppage caused by water leakage or repair works therefore frequently occurs. At the same time, pipes for housing also cause water leakage due to aging and in some cases, when water leaks out, dirty water on the surface of the earth or underground is sucked into the water system by a pump. Therefore, improvement of the water supply system is an urgent task.

   (3) This project aims at improving water supply services through renovation of the water treatment plant and water pipes in Yangon City which urgently requires renovation. Through implementation of the project, improvement of stability in water supply in Yangon City and improvement of the living environment of citizens of Yangon City are expected.

3. The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (maximum 456 million yen)

   (1) President U Thein Sein has been rapidly promoting various reforms including economic reforms. And development of excellent human resources who take charge of construction of the nation had become a very important issue.

   (2) This project aims at providing tuition and other expenses necessary for young administrative officials of Myanmar to study in Japan.

   (3) Through implementation of the project, it is expected that administrative officers, who will take charge of social/economic development of Myanmar, acquire specialized knowledge necessary for solving problems or policy planning in each field and to promote reforms and the economic development of Myanmar. They are also expected to contribute to the construction of mutual understanding and friendly relationship between Japan and Myanmar.

Talk on “Industrial Policy and Globalization”

The talk on “Industrial Policy and Globalization” jointly conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Asia Foundation was held at Royal Kumudra Hotel, here at 9 am today, with the opening remarks delivered by Director-General of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the occasion, Dr. Marcus Noland, Director of Studies at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and Senior Fellow at East-West Center delivered talk on “Industrial Policy Globalization.”

Also present on the occasion were officials from respective ministries and representatives and invited guests.—MNA

Myanmar sees import of over 170,000 automobiles in 19 months

YANGON, 27 May — During the 19 months long from 25 October 2011 to 25 May 2013, the Customs Department had allowed the permission for imports of 171,341 vehicles under the vehicle import process including overage vehicle substitution scheme, in accord with rules and regulations of the department. So far the custom duty of K 262,984.68 million and commercial tax of K 273,125.97 million totaling K 536,110.65 million have been collected.

Of the cars issued after paying custom duty and commercial tax, 70067 vehicles were allowed under overage vehicle substitution scheme, 38521 for auto showrooms, 2818 for overseas workers, 1,997 for the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, 108 for military attachés and 56,773 for private users.

The meeting focused tasks for third-phase implementation of ASEAN University Network/ Southeast Asian Engineering Development Network. —MNA
Japan announces its assistance for Myanmar’s infrastructural development

Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning Yen Loan to Myanmar

1. On May 26, Mr. Mikio Numata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and H.E.Dr. Lin Aung, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed an Exchange of Notes concerning three yen loan projects. The total amount of the projects is up to 51,052 million yen.

2. Outline of the projects
   (1) Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 1 (maximum 17 billion yen)
   Infrastructure construction in Myanmar remains at a lower level than other ASEAN nations and infrastructure construction in rural areas has become an urgent task in particular. This project aims at newly building and rehabilitation basic infrastructure (roads, electricity, water supply, etc.) in seven regions and seven states of Myanmar. Through implementation of this project, improvement of quality of life of residents in rural areas and contribution to development and reduction of poverty in the rural areas are expected.
   (2) Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project Phase 1 (maximum 14,052 million yen)
   Power shortage has been a serious problem in Myanmar. In particular, in the dry season when hydroelectric energy is reduced, rotational planned blackouts are carried out. Thus, the tight electricity situation influences economic and social activities. Along with intensified economic activities in Yangon urban area including the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, further increase in demand for power is expected, and establishment of a stable power supply system has become an urgent issue. This project aims at increased and more efficient power output through rehabilitation of thermal power stations and substations in Yangon urban area. Through implementation of this project, improvement of power supply conditions and contribution to the sustainable economic growth of Myanmar are expected.
   (3) Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase 1 (maximum 20 billion yen)
   The Thilawa Special Economic Zone (hereinafter referred to as “SEZ”) located in the vicinity of Yangon has advantages such as rich manpower and accumulation of existing industries, as well as availability to utilize an existing port. The Government of Myanmar expressed its intention to preferentially develop this area. However, infrastructure has not been developed in the planned construction site of the SEZ and construction of internal and peripheral infrastructure of the SEZ is an important task in order to promote the business of enterprises at the site. This project aims at preparing electricity power-related plants (power generation, transformation of electric energy, transmission and distribution of energy, etc.) so that sufficient electric power can be supplied to Thilawa District and, at the same time, expanding the port to deal with increasing demand for container cargos. Through implementation of this project, promotion of direct investment to the district, development of Yangon urban area including the SEZ and creation of employment in the area, and contribution to the sustainable economic development of Myanmar are expected.

3. Terms and conditions of the loan
   (1) Interest: 0.01% per annum
   (2) Repayment period: 40 years (including a 10-year grace period)
   (3) Procurement method: General untied

---

Work coord meeting on aviation safety held

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 May—Opening ceremony of Liaison Officer Training Course (2/2013) for ASEAN Summits in 2014 was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at 9:30 am today, with an opening speech by Director-General U Aung Lin of Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It was the second course of its kind aimed at uplifting proficiency of the liaison Officers to be assigned by 28 ministries for ASEAN Summits in 2014. This course was held by Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 27 May to 7 June. The scholars on respective subjects of Ministries of Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Transport, Education and Culture will give lectures at the training course being attended by 55 trainees.—MNA

Arms and ammunition seized in Hsenwi Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 May—Arms and ammunition were seized from an abandoned Mark II in Nasot Village, Mongli Village-tract, Hsenwi Township, Shan State (north) this morning.

At Asian World toll gate in Lashio around 2:20 am today, the security force found white colour Mark II with number plate 3 Nga4120 suspicious and stopped it for a check. But, the car refused to stop and fled the gate. The security forces joined together to corner the car and finally it was found abandoned in front of Nasot Village Monastery with arms and ammunition.

The seized arms include 11 M22 with collapsible butt, three M22 without collapsible butt, three M 79 40 mm grenade launchers, four M16 automatic rifles, one pistol, totaling 22 arms along with 50 9mm bullets and 2559 5.56 bullets and six assorted magazines.

The further investigation led to uncovering of another ten M 22 arms and 130 5.56 bullets outside the fence of Nasot Village Monastery.

Police are taking measures to probe into the case. —MNA

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung delivering address at the meeting.—MNA

Liaison Officer Training Course (2/2013) commences

Yangon, 27 May—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung addressed a work-coordination meeting on aviation safety held at the meeting hall of the Director-General of Liaison Officer Training Course being attended by 55 officers of respective departments. —MNA

Photo shows automobile, arms and ammunition seized in front of the monastery of Nasot Village in Hsenwi Township.—MNA

Photo shows arms and ammunition seized in front of the monastery of Nasot Village in Hsenwi Township.—MNA

The New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 28 May, 2013 9
Beikman Thit Library put into service in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 27 May—The opening of Beikman Thit Library took place in Nyaungbinshae Village in Sagaing Township of Sagaing Region on 24 May morning. It was attended by Township Management Committee Chairman U Tun Win Aung, Staff Officer U Myint Thein of District Information and Public Relations Department and staff, the township administrator and wellwishers and local people. The Management Committee Chairman and Village Library member U Toe and Wellwisher U Thein Hsaung cut the ribbon to open the new building. Then, the officials accepted books and publications for the library donated by wellwishers. The library measuring 24 ft wide, 18 ft long and 15 ft high was constructed at a cost of K 3.5 million contributed by the State and Wellwisher U Thein Hsaung and Daw Hmuy Kyi and family.

11 students from National Culture and Fine Arts University leave for Japan

YANGON, 27 May — A delegation comprising 11 students from National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) and (Mandalay) of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture left here for Japan on 25 May to take part in ASEAN-Japan Youth Exchange Programme (2) to be held in Japan from 26 May to 2 June. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials concerned.

10

MCDC to generate power from wastes

Mandalay, 27 May—Mandalay City Development Committee is taking steps to generate electric power from waste in partnership with local and foreign companies to be chosen through open tender system. As the committee deals with 500 to 600 tons of wastes per day from six townships within the municipal areas of the committee, it is preparing to turn wastes into electric power. The requirement and regulation booklets are being sold for K 5000 per set at the committee starting tomorrow.

CSCs issuance, household registration issued

THAZI, 27 May—Under the supervision of Deputy Director U Htay Aung Kyaw of Meiktila District Immigration and National Registration Department, Staff Officer U Soe Soe of Thazi Township INRD and staff members made a field trip to villages of Thazi Township on 18 May to implement Moe Pwint Plan-5. While in Wettoe, Shwedaung and Ngathet villages of Wettoe Village-tract, the personnel issued citizenship scrutiny cards and households registration certificates to the local people within a single day. The rural people are pleased the departmental personnel for the issuance of CSCs and household registration certificates because their villages are located in far distance to the urban area.

ELECTRICITY

MCDC to generate power from wastes

Mandalay, 27 May—Mandalay City Development Committee is taking steps to generate electric power from waste in partnership with local and foreign companies to be chosen through open tender system. As the committee deals with 500 to 600 tons of wastes per day from six townships within the municipal areas of the committee, it is preparing to turn wastes into electric power. The requirement and regulation booklets are being sold for K 5000 per set at the committee starting tomorrow.

CSCs issuance, household registration issued

THAZI, 27 May—Under the supervision of Deputy Director U Htay Aung Kyaw of Meiktila District Immigration and National Registration Department, Staff Officer U Soe Soe of Thazi Township INRD and staff members made a field trip to villages of Thazi Township on 18 May to implement Moe Pwint Plan-5. While in Wettoe, Shwedaung and Ngathet villages of Wettoe Village-tract, the personnel issued citizenship scrutiny cards and households registration certificates to the local people within a single day. The rural people are pleased the departmental personnel for the issuance of CSCs and household registration certificates because their villages are located in far distance to the urban area.

FIRE

Pyapon fire engulfs one building

PYAPON, 27 May—A fire broke out at KoCal public rest house on the northern board of trustees in the precinct of Ywama Monastery on Chaungdwingyi Road of Ward 1 in Northern Pyapon of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region at 1.05 pm yesterday. A total of 13 members of Township Fire Services Department, 40 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and five policemen together over 200 local people put out the fire with the use of three fire engines from Pyapon. They controlled the fire at 1.10 pm and totally put out the fire at 1.20 pm. The fire reduced the building into the ashes, losing K 200,000. Township Police Force is investigating the root cause of outbreak of fire.

First News Photo exhibition in Mandalay

Mandalay, 27 May—Press Club of Myanmar conducted a news photo exhibition at Dream Land Art Studio in Mandalay from 23 to 25 May.

CSCs issuance, household registration issued

THAZI, 27 May—Under the supervision of Deputy Director U Htay Aung Kyaw of Meiktila District Immigration and National Registration Department, Staff Officer U Soe Soe of Thazi Township INRD and staff members made a field trip to villages of Thazi Township on 18 May to implement Moe Pwint Plan-5. While in Wettoe, Shwedaung and Ngathet villages of Wettoe Village-tract, the personnel issued citizenship scrutiny cards and households registration certificates to the local people within a single day. The rural people are pleased the departmental personnel for the issuance of CSCs and household registration certificates because their villages are located in far distance to the urban area.

CITIZENSHIP
**Average value of Japan lawmakers’ assets grow to 32 million yen**

Tokyo, 27 May—The average value of assets held by Japan’s lower house members came to 32.28 million yen, slightly up from a record low 31.52 million yen in the previous February 2010 survey, according to a Kyodo News tally based on data released on Monday.

The amount, which covers financial assets, land and property as of the first day of their current term that started in December, increased for the first time since 1993, when a law came into effect requiring House of Representatives members to release such data. Covered by the latest data are those who won their seats in last December’s election.

Kunio Hatoyama, a former minister of internal affairs and communications, had the highest value of assets with 1,998.84 million yen. Saichi Kamiyama, who was elected to the lower house in December for the first time, ranked second with 974.45 million yen, followed by Finance Minister Taro Aso, who doubles as deputy prime minister, with 436.23 million yen.

The top three all belong to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was 25th on the list with 107.94 million yen, and he showed the sharpest drop among lower house members — down 42.41 million yen from the previous survey.

The average value of assets held by the 184 new House of Representatives members, including those previously in the less-powerful House of Councillors, was 22.90 million yen, nearly doubling from 12.53 million yen in the previous survey. —Kyodo News

---

**Armed rebels kill at least 27 in India’s northwest**

New Delhi, 27 May—Armed rebels killed at least 27 people, including top leaders of the state Congress party, in an attack on a Congress rally on Saturday night in Chhattisgarh State in northwestern India, Indian media reported on Sunday.

The reports blame the attack on Na Details...
Nigerian military says no collateral damage in offensive against insurgency

MAIDUGURI, 27 May—Nigerian troops operating in northeastern Borno State on Saturday said there is no collateral damage in the current military offensive against the Boko Haram insurgency.

Spokesman of the Joint Task Force, Lt Col Sagir Musa, said in a briefing with journalists in Maiduguri, the state capital, that no civilian was killed during the airstrike on the three of the Boko Haram camps at Sambisa Game Reserve on Monday.

“Diligent, painstaking and careful military planning were done before we carried out the operations in all the Boko Haram camps but I can tell you, there is no collateral damage. No civilian was killed in the operation,” he added.

He said the military would dislodge the insurgent group should its members re-group anywhere in the West African country.

The JTF has no plan to barricade Maiduguri, the epicentre of the insurgency, as being speculated, according to the spokesman.

“It has come to the notice of the Joint Task Force Operation Restore ORDER the purported rumor going round that the JTF will barricade Maiduguri metropolis. The rumour urged residents to purchase foodstuffs and other domestic needs to avoid being taken unaware,” Sagir added.—Xinhua

New Light of Myanmar

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Tuesday, 28 May, 2013

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1320)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1320) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIATIC BAY VOY NO (1216)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC BAY VOY NO (1216) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (040)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (040) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EMV CREMONA VOY NO (072)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EMV CREMONA VOY NO (072) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVERABLE VOY NO (344N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVERABLE VOY NO (344N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (15)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA LORD VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA LORD VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FU XIN SHAN VOY NO (99)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU XIN SHAN VOY NO (99) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MINDORO VOY NO (137)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO VOY NO (137) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAUN KAISHA LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

People prepare oysters during the annual Bluff Oyster and Food Festival in Bluff, New Zealand, on 25 May, 2013. Over 5000 seafood fans joined in the festival. —Xinhua
Robert Pattinson cannot get over Kristen Stewart’s affair

Kristen Stewart had an infamous affair with director Rupert Sanders and Robert Pattinson can’t seem to forget that.—PTI

French love story wins top prize at Cannes

CANNES, 27 May — An intimate love story by French director Abdellatif Kechiche won the top prize at Cannes on Sunday, and the film festival’s director immediately urged the large crowds protesting against gay marriage in Paris to go and see it.

“La Vie d’Adele — Chapitre 1 & 2” (Blue is the Warmest Colour) was chosen from a field of 20 films exploring sex, violence and emotional anguish which would be shared between Spielberg and his two lead actresses Adele Exarchopoulos and Lea Seydoux as they were central to the film’s success.— Reuters

‘Fast & Furious’ leads ‘Hangover’ in big-budget movie battle

LOS ANGELES, 27 May — The speed demons of “Fast & Furious 6” raced ahead of the hard-partying “Hangover” gang in a battle between two male-oriented movie franchises, setting up the car chase sequel for a big holiday weekend win at US and Canadian box offices. “Fast & Furious 6” rang up an estimated $98.5 million in domestic ticket sales from Friday through Sunday and was speeding toward $122.5 million by the end of Monday’s US Memorial Day holiday, distributor Universal Pictures projected.

The movies charged up the North American box office, putting ticket sales on pace for a Memorial Day weekend record. Receipts for all films could reach $323 million through Monday, according to Hollywood.com, shattering the 2011 record of $276.3 million: “A perfect storm of hits led to this incredible weekend with going out to the movies proving itself to be the first choice for outside-of-the-home entertainment,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Hollywood.com’s box office division. The sixth installment of “Fast & Furious” blew past pre-weekend forecasts for $80 million in domestic sales over four days by nearly 50 percent.— Reuters

Rapper Naughty Boy tops British pop music chart

LONDON, 27 May — British rapper and producer Naughty Boy topped Britain’s pop music chart for the first time on Sunday with “La La”, a dance track recorded with London singer Sam Smith. Last week’s number one, “Get Lucky” by French electronic duo Daft Punk and American singer Pharrrell Williams, slipped down to second place.

British folk-rock singer Passenger’s “Let Her Go” also fell one spot to number three, according to the Official Charts Company, which compiles the weekly rundown.

American rapper Macklemore’s “Can’t Hold Us”, recorded with producer Ryan Lewis and singer Ray Dalton, was unchanged in fourth position. In the album chart, Daft Punk went straight in at number one with new entry “Random Access Memories”, knocking Scottish veteran Rod Stewart’s “Time” down to second place.— Reuters

No claims agains this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CONSIGNMENTS of cargo carried on MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (24) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

13 New Light of Myanmar, 27 May — The married director last year.

Hollywood actor Robert Pattinson cannot get over ex-girlfriend Kristen Stewart’s affair with director Rupert Sanders.

Pattinson caught Stewart cheating on him with the married director last year.

“Rob broke up with Kristen because he never got over the fact that she cheated,” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

“He is never going to forget. For a superstar, he can be very insecure and what went down last year just preyed on that. Rob gets in his own head and thinks the worst. He broods a lot,” the source added.— PTI
Nadal, Sharapova and French men top Monday’s Paris bill

PARIS, 27 May—A day after former champions Roger Federer and Serena Williams eased into the second round with the minimum of fuss, it will be the turn of title holders Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova to grace the French Open with their presence on Monday.

Spanish third seed Nadal, who looks to win the claycourt grand slam for a record-extending eighth time, is in second action on Court Philippe Chatrier against German Daniel Brands while Russian second seed Sharapova closes proceedings against Taipei’s Hsieh Su-wei. Nadal and Sharapova, however, will not be the top draw in Paris on Monday when rays of sunshine might be in short supply. Five Frenchmen are likely to draw in the crowds on the showcourts as they bid to follow in the footsteps of Yannick Noah’s 1983 French Open triumph.

Sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and seventh seed Richard Gasquet will play on Court Suzanne Lenglen against Slovenian Aljaz Bedene and Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine respectively. The unseeded Gael Monfils, who reached the French Open semi-finals in 2008, will be on Court Philippe Chatrier against Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych.

Italian Manassero, 20, becomes youngest PGA winner

“Tennis is a man's sport. The Grand Slam is for men. We need to look at the female game,” Vatican’s former pope Benedict XVI told Reuters during an interview.

“I've always felt something really special about this place and this tournament. Everything has come together this week and I managed to pull it off in the playoff.”

Former world number one Lee Westwood, one stroke off the pace overnight and having drawn first prize of 791,660 euros ($1.02 million), made a fast start with a hat-trick of birdies to the fourth earning a two-shot lead. The Florida-based Briton’s round then unraveled with successive bogeys at the sixth and seventh and a double-bogey seven at the 12th wreaked his chances for good as he struggled to a 73 for 281.

That was before former Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca in 1996. Spanish pair Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) and overnight leader Alejandro Canizares (72) shared fourth place on 279 after another day of sunshine and cloudless skies on the outskirts of London. “It's been an amazing week,” said Manassero at the presentation ceremony after capturing the fourth tour victory of his short career.

Charmed Kanaan wins Indy 500 in 12th attempt

Indianapolis, 27 May—With a good luck charm he had given to a sick child back in his pocket, Brazilian Tony Kanaan won his first Indianapolis 500 on Sunday to end a decade of disappointment at the famed Brickyard. The former IndyCar champion captured the crown jewel of North American motor racing in his 12th attempt to complete his resume, taking the checkered flag under caution after defending champion Dario Franchitti crashed with just over two laps to go.

“One of IndyCar’s most popular figures, Kanaan had known nothing but bad luck at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, coming close but never able to reach Victory Lane. Kanaan's luck, however, changed when he received a package four days before the race containing a good luck charm he had given to a young girl nine years ago just before she was about to undergo brain surgery. The woman, now 24 years old and healthy, returned the charm back to Kanaan along with a note that read: “Here’s your good luck charm back. Now you take it and win.” Kanaan drove his Dallara-Chevy into a packed Victory Lane he pulled the medal out of his back. Now you take it and win.”

Sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and seventh seed Richard Gasquet will play on Court Suzanne Lenglen against Slovenian Aljaz Be
dene and Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine respectively. The unseeded Gael Monfils, who reached the French Open semi-finals in 2008, will be on Court Philippe Chatrier against Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych.

Manassero also became only the second Italian to win the trophy, after former Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca in 1996. Spanish pair Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) and overnight leader Alejandro Canizares (72) shared fourth place on 279 after another day of sunshine and cloudless skies on the outskirts of London. “It’s been an amazing week,” said Manassero at the presentation ceremony after capturing the fourth tour victory of his short career.

Manassero also became only the second Italian to win the trophy, after former Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca in 1996. Spanish pair Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) and overnight leader Alejandro Canizares (72) shared fourth place on 279 after another day of sunshine and cloudless skies on the outskirts of London. “It’s been an amazing week,” said Manassero at the presentation ceremony after capturing the fourth tour victory of his short career.

Italian Manassero, 20, becomes youngest PGA winner

“Tennis is a man's sport. The Grand Slam is for men. We need to look at the female game,” Vatican’s former pope Benedict XVI told Reuters during an interview.

“I've always felt something really special about this place and this tournament. Everything has come together this week and I managed to pull it off in the playoff.”

Former world number one Lee Westwood, one stroke off the pace overnight and having drawn first prize of 791,660 euros ($1.02 million), made a fast start with a hat-trick of birdies to the fourth earning a two-shot lead. The Florida-based Briton’s round then unraveled with successive bogeys at the sixth and seventh and a double-bogey seven at the 12th wreaked his chances for good as he struggled to a 73 for 281.

That was before former Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca in 1996. Spanish pair Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) and overnight leader Alejandro Canizares (72) shared fourth place on 279 after another day of sunshine and cloudless skies on the outskirts of London. “It's been an amazing week,” said Manassero at the presentation ceremony after capturing the fourth tour victory of his short career.

Charmed Kanaan wins Indy 500 in 12th attempt

Indianapolis, 27 May—With a good luck charm he had given to a sick child back in his pocket, Brazilian Tony Kanaan won his first Indianapolis 500 on Sunday to end a decade of disappointment at the famed Brickyard. The former IndyCar champion captured the crown jewel of North American motor racing in his 12th attempt to complete his resume, taking the checkered flag under caution after defending champion Dario Franchitti crashed with just over two laps to go.

“One of IndyCar’s most popular figures, Kanaan had known nothing but bad luck at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, coming close but never able to reach Victory Lane. Kanaan's luck, however, changed when he received a package four days before the race containing a good luck charm he had given to a young girl nine years ago just before she was about to undergo brain surgery. The woman, now 24 years old and healthy, returned the charm back to Kanaan along with a note that read: “Here’s your good luck charm back. Now you take it and win.” Kanaan drove his Dallara-Chevy into a packed Victory Lane he pulled the medal out of his back. Now you take it and win.”

Sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and seventh seed Richard Gasquet will play on Court Suzanne Lenglen against Slovenian Aljaz Be
dene and Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine respectively. The unseeded Gael Monfils, who reached the French Open semi-finals in 2008, will be on Court Philippe Chatrier against Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych.

Manassero also became only the second Italian to win the trophy, after former Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca in 1996. Spanish pair Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) and overnight leader Alejandro Canizares (72) shared fourth place on 279 after another day of sunshine and cloudless skies on the outskirts of London. “It’s been an amazing week,” said Manassero at the presentation ceremony after capturing the fourth tour victory of his short career.

Charmed Kanaan wins Indy 500 in 12th attempt

Indianapolis, 27 May—With a good luck charm he had given to a sick child back in his pocket, Brazilian Tony Kanaan won his first Indianapolis 500 on Sunday to end a decade of disappointment at the famed Brickyard. The former IndyCar champion captured the crown jewel of North American motor racing in his 12th attempt to complete his resume, taking the checkered flag under caution after defending champion Dario Franchitti crashed with just over two laps to go.

“One of IndyCar’s most popular figures, Kanaan had known nothing but bad luck at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, coming close but never able to reach Victory Lane. Kanaan's luck, however, changed when he received a package four days before the race containing a good luck charm he had given to a young girl nine years ago just before she was about to undergo brain surgery. The woman, now 24 years old and healthy, returned the charm back to Kanaan along with a note that read: “Here’s your good luck charm back. Now you take it and win.” Kanaan drove his Dallara-Chevy into a packed Victory Lane he pulled the medal out of his back. Now you take it and win.”

Sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and seventh seed Richard Gasquet will play on Court Suzanne Lenglen against Slovenian Aljaz Be
dene and Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine respectively. The unseeded Gael Monfils, who reached the French Open semi-finals in 2008, will be on Court Philippe Chatrier against Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych.

Manassero also became only the second Italian to win the trophy, after former Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca in 1996. Spanish pair Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) and overnight leader Alejandro Canizares (72) shared fourth place on 279 after another day of sunshine and cloudless skies on the outskirts of London. “It’s been an amazing week,” said Manassero at the presentation ceremony after capturing the fourth tour victory of his short career.

Charmed Kanaan wins Indy 500 in 12th attempt

Indianapolis, 27 May—With a good luck charm he had given to a sick child back in his pocket, Brazilian Tony Kanaan won his first Indianapolis 500 on Sunday to end a decade of disappointment at the famed Brickyard. The former IndyCar champion captured the crown jewel of North American motor racing in his 12th attempt to complete his resume, taking the checkered flag under caution after defending champion Dario Franchitti crashed with just over two laps to go.

“One of IndyCar’s most popular figures, Kanaan had known nothing but bad luck at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, coming close but never able to reach Victory Lane. Kanaan's luck, however, changed when he received a package four days before the race containing a good luck charm he had given to a young girl nine years ago just before she was about to undergo brain surgery. The woman, now 24 years old and healthy, returned the charm back to Kanaan along with a note that read: “Here’s your good luck charm back. Now you take it and win.” Kanaan drove his Dallara-Chevy into a packed Victory Lane he pulled the medal out of his back. Now you take it and win.”

Sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and seventh seed Richard Gasquet will play on Court Suzanne Lenglen against Slovenian Aljaz Be
dene and Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine respectively. The unseeded Gael Monfils, who reached the French Open semi-finals in 2008, will be on Court Philippe Chatrier against Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych.

Manassero also became only the second Italian to win the trophy, after former Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca in 1996. Spanish pair Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) and overnight leader Alejandro Canizares (72) shared fourth place on 279 after another day of sunshine and cloudless skies on the outskirts of London. “It’s been an amazing week,” said Manassero at the presentation ceremony after capturing the fourth tour victory of his short career.
ATHENS, 27 May—A six year old Greek boy and a 65 year old female tourist drowned off beaches across Greece within a few hours during the weekend, as authorities launch a campaign to address the increasing pattern of number of accidental such deaths every summer.

The six year old child drowned as he was swimming without constant supervision by his grandmother along other three children off the coast of western Peloponnese peninsula, local media reported. Swimmers tried to save him, but failed.

The 65 year old tourist drown at a beach in the southern Aegean Sea island of Crete near the port city of Heraklion.

According to local media, she lost consciousness and despite the intervention of a life guard, she succumbed at the local hospital. Her nationality has not been revealed by authorities yet.

The two tragedies were reported, as Greek authorities launch a new awareness campaign at the start of the summer season to avoid such incidents as much as possible this year.

In 2012, according to official data from the Coast Guard released to the Greek national news agency AMNA recently, a total of 396 persons drowned across Greece. It was one of the highest rates in Europe and is regarded as a particularly negative record for a sea nation.

According to previous Coast Guard statistics, the number of people drowning in Greece every summer is on the rise since 2008. In 2008 there were 283 deaths recorded, in 2009 a total of 327, in 2010 at least 371 and the same number the next year.

The increasing trend has been linked by some experts to the economic crisis which has hit the country since 2009. Due to cuts on public spending and heavy recession, several municipalities and private seaside resorts seem to have been hiring less life guards compared to the past. According to official statistics, there have been 668 beach deaths with life guards in 2011 and 361 last year. The Coast Guard announced last week that the start of an awareness campaign to prevent such deaths. In the first phase of the program, at least 5,500 elementary school pupils in Athens will receive leaflets with advice regarding safe behaviour at the beach.

Xinhua

PARIS, 27 May—Roger Federer is used to ending grand slam tournaments on Sundays rather than starting them but the French Open’s quirky schedule could not throw the Swiss stylist off his stride as he strolled through his Roland Garros opener in ruthless fashion.

The 31-year-old had his nose put out of joint when he was reseeded Spanish grand slam rookie Pablo Carreno-Busta 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 in the first round this year. He was in good company too.

Federer, winner of a record 17 grand slam titles, walked out on a chilly Philippe Chatrier court after 15-times major winner Serena Williams put down an early marker with a 51-minute drubbing of Georgia’s Anna Tatishvili. American Williams turned her match against Tatishvili into little more than a practice session, winning 6-0, 6-1 before completing the tougher task of conducting a court-side interview in French.

“It’s way, way, more nerve racking than playing tennis,” Williams said after a charm-offensive that went well with the Parisian crowds wrapped up under coats in the stands. Federer, who often does his post-match news conferences in three languages, was equally impressive on the opening day alongside the Bois de Boulogne.— Reuters

ANA resumes Boeing 787’s commercial operation

Tokyo, 27 May—Japanese airline All Nippon Airways Co (ANA) on Sunday resumed Boeing 787’s commercial operation after a series of battery troubles made the dreamliners grounded worldwide in January, local media reported.

A Boeing 787 tan by ANA with 218 passengers left New Chitose Airport in north Japan after 5 pm and landed at Tokyo’s Haneda Airport at 6:30 pm, said Japan’s Kyodo News.

The airline has improved battery system in its dreamliners and conducted test flights before restarting operation of Boeing 787, ANA said the new battery system ran well during the short operation on Sunday, according to the report.

Japanese and US aviation authorities gave green light for the Boeing 787’s to resume service on 26 April.

ANA and Japan Air lines Co (JAL) are the world’s two largest operators of the Boeing dreamliners, and the JAL will resume its Boeing 787s operations on 1 June, said Kyodo.

Xinhua

Small plane crash kills three in southern Russia

Moscow, 27 May—A small seaplane crashed in southern Russia on Sunday night, killing three people onboard, the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said.

The crash occurred at 8:50 pm Moscow time (1650 GMT) in the Krasnodar region, when the plane was conducting a crop-dusting operation, the Interfax news agency quoted local authorities as saying.

All three people onboard — two pilots and one passenger — were found dead when rescuers arrived at the scene shortly after the crash, said the emergency authorities.

Xinhua

Residents visit the National Museum of Fine Arts on the Cultural Heritage Day, in Santiago, capital of Chile, on 26 May, 2013. Chile opened to the public 350 historic sites in the country as part of the Heritage Day celebration on Sunday.

Xinhua
Sector-wise working group meeting of Myanmar development partnerships held

Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum by Myanmar Government and Development Partnerships was recognized by international countries and organizations. It can be attributed to cooperation of representatives from development partnerships and 15 sectoral working groups were formed with representatives of government institutions and development partnership institutions to implement policies to ensure effectiveness of aid, the Union minister added.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw said that Nay Pyi Taw Accord adopted in 1st Myanmar Development Accord held in January, took place at the meeting hall of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this morning.

The sector-wise working group coordination meeting of Myanmar Government and development partnership countries in progress.

Procter & Gamble (P&G)’s water donation reaches six billion liters

Inlay Lake situated in Shwenyaung Township of Shan State (South) is the list of world wetland religions and also an ASEAN cultural heritage site. The lake is a habitation for rich biodiversity. Due to the impacts of climate change, increased population and expansion of hospitality businesses, Inlay Lake existed since many years ago has experienced water level reduction in summer year by year. The water in Inlay Lake reached its lowest point at -2.3 feet in 2010. In April, its water has reached -1.7 feet, forming a scenic spot.

Condition of Southwest Monsoon Advancement

Southwest monsoon has advanced into the North Bay of Bengal and central Myanmar areas, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Come and visit Inlay Lake

Byline: Naing Tun, Nay Myo Thurein
Photo: Htay Aung (Kyemon)

Ceremony to mark the completion of delivering 6 billion liters of purified water donation in progress at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

YANGON, 27 May—Procter & Gamble (P&G) announced a milestone in their efforts to save one life every hour through sharing clean drinking water organized a ceremony to mark the completion of delivering 6 billion liters of purified water at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning. It was attended by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and responsible persons of P&G, UMFCCI officials, responsible persons of social organizations and media persons.

Vice-President and General Manager of ASEAN Procter & Gamble (P&G) Mr. Samuel Kim spoke words of thanks via video.

Next, Project Director Mr. Greg Allgood demonstrated how to purify dirty water to purity through a four-gram water purification powder sachets. As the P&G Purifier of Water sachets can make dirty water safe and clean, it will be of great benefit to a whole family. A four-gram sachet can clean 10 liter of water by killing bacterium and virus. It thereby contributes to a significant reduction of diarrhea disease in developing countries.

Next, Mrs. Chelsea Clinton, daughter of former US President Mr. Bill Clinton, and the US Ambassador to Myanmar spoke on the occasion.

Then, responsible persons of USAID and P&G, one of US companies, signed agreement to cooperate in social works for protection of lives of mother and children in Myanmar and exchanged notes.

The water level reduction in years ago has experienced by 70 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. Works are underway to reach 4 feet in depth there. Thus, I would like to invite pilgrims far and wide of the country and globetrotters around the world to come and visit Inlay lake which is a place of pilgrimage and also a scenic spot.

Kyemon: 24-5-2013
Trs: YM